Laws, Regulations &

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Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.

Public Involvemen

Cleanup

Science & Tech

State of California

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, April 2005

DTSC Proposes Soil and Groundwater Cleanup at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) wants to inform you about the proposed soil and groundwater cleanup plans for the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). These proposed plans or recommended remedies are part of the Draft Corrective Measures Study that has been open for public review since July 2004. DTSC has finished evaluating potential cleanup remedies for areas at LBNL where contamination has occurred. You may comment on these proposed remedies and the related California Environmental Quality Act Negative Declaration from April 25 to June 8, 2005.

Description and Background

LBNL is a research facility managed by the University of California (UC) for the U.S. Department. of Energy (DOE). It is located in the Berkeley/Oakland Hills and is about 200 acres bordering the northeast side of the UC Berkeley campus. The western three-quarters of LBNL are located in the City of Berkeley and the eastern quarter is located in the City of Oakland. The site is bordered on the north and the south by single-family residences and on the west by multi-family dwellings, student dormitories and other campus buildings.

LBNL conducts a wide range of research activities including high-energy physics; accelerator research and development; materials research; and chemistry, geology, molecular biology and biomedical research.

DTSC issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit to LBNL in May 1993. As a part of the permit, DTSC requires LBNL to investigate and clean up all historical releases of hazardous chemicals. We call this process corrective action. It has four major steps: Facility Assessment (completed November 1991), Facility Investigation (completed November 2000), Risk Assessment (conditionally completed in April and August 2003), and Remedy Selection. For more detail, please read our past fact sheets, the Draft Corrective Measures Study and related documents on our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/LBNL/index.html

Public Meeting and Hearing about Site Cleanup

Thursday, May 26, 2005 at 6:30 PM

North Berkeley Senior Center

1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley CA 94709

Contact Nathan Schumacher toll free at (866) 495-5651 for information on accessibility and to request reasonable accomodations.

Public Comment Period -- April 25 through June 8, 2005

Remedy Selection

The Draft Corrective Measures Study focuses on 15 areas of contamination or units. Please see the map on page three. This study points to four areas of soil contamination and 11 areas of groundwater contamination as posing a potential threat to human health or to potential beneficial uses of groundwater at LBNL.

For two of the total four soil units, the Building 7 sump and the unit next to Building 51L, DTSC proposes digging out the contaminated soil and shipping it off-site for disposal. For the other two soil units, we found that interim cleanup, done in 2003 and 2004, finished the cleanup there. These two units are the hydraulic gate unit at Building 88 and the former Hazardous Waste Handling and Storage Facility in Building 75.

For all of our recommended remedies for cleaning up soil and groundwater, please read the table on page four.

The San Francisco Bay Region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the City of Berkeley also reviewed the Draft Corrective Measures Study and provided their comments to DTSC. LBNL responded to agency comments and submitted the revised Draft Corrective Measures Study on February 10, 2005.

DTSC Studied the Environmental Effects

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that we analyze any environmental effects caused by this proposal. We found no negative effects and we propose a CEQA Negative Declaration.

We are also aware that as a separate project, LBNL will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the demolition of Building 51 and the Bevatron, a particle accelerator. According to the Notice of Preparation for that Draft EIR, demolition would begin in 2006 or 2007 and end in 2012. We have requested that LBNL include our analysis (Initial Study and Draft Negative Declaration) for selected cleanup remedies in the Draft EIR. They plan to add our CEQA analysis to their cumulative effects section of their Draft EIR.

DOE Has Jurisdiction Over Radioactive Contamination

As a separate action, the DOE has also conducted an environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. They plan to send out a notice of the public comment period on their proposed decision.

Future Actions

After DTSC approves the remedies, LBNL will submit design plans to DTSC for its review. LBNL will then carry out the soil and groundwater remedies. LBNL will complete the soil removals and implementation of the groundwater remedies by Fall 2006. Operation and maintenance of groundwater cleanup systems will continue after Fall 2006.

You can participate in this process

You have 45 days to comment on this proposal. You can review the revised Draft Corrective Measures Study Report and related documents at these locations:

Berkeley Public Library, Second Floor Reference Desk
2090 Kittredge Street, Berkeley CA 94702
(510) 981-6100

LBNL Building 50 Library (For LBNL employees)
1 Cyclotron Road
Berkeley, CA 94720
(510) 486-5621

The full administrative record is available at:
DTSC Berkeley Office
700 Heinz Ave., Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
Please call (510) 540-3800 to make an appointment.

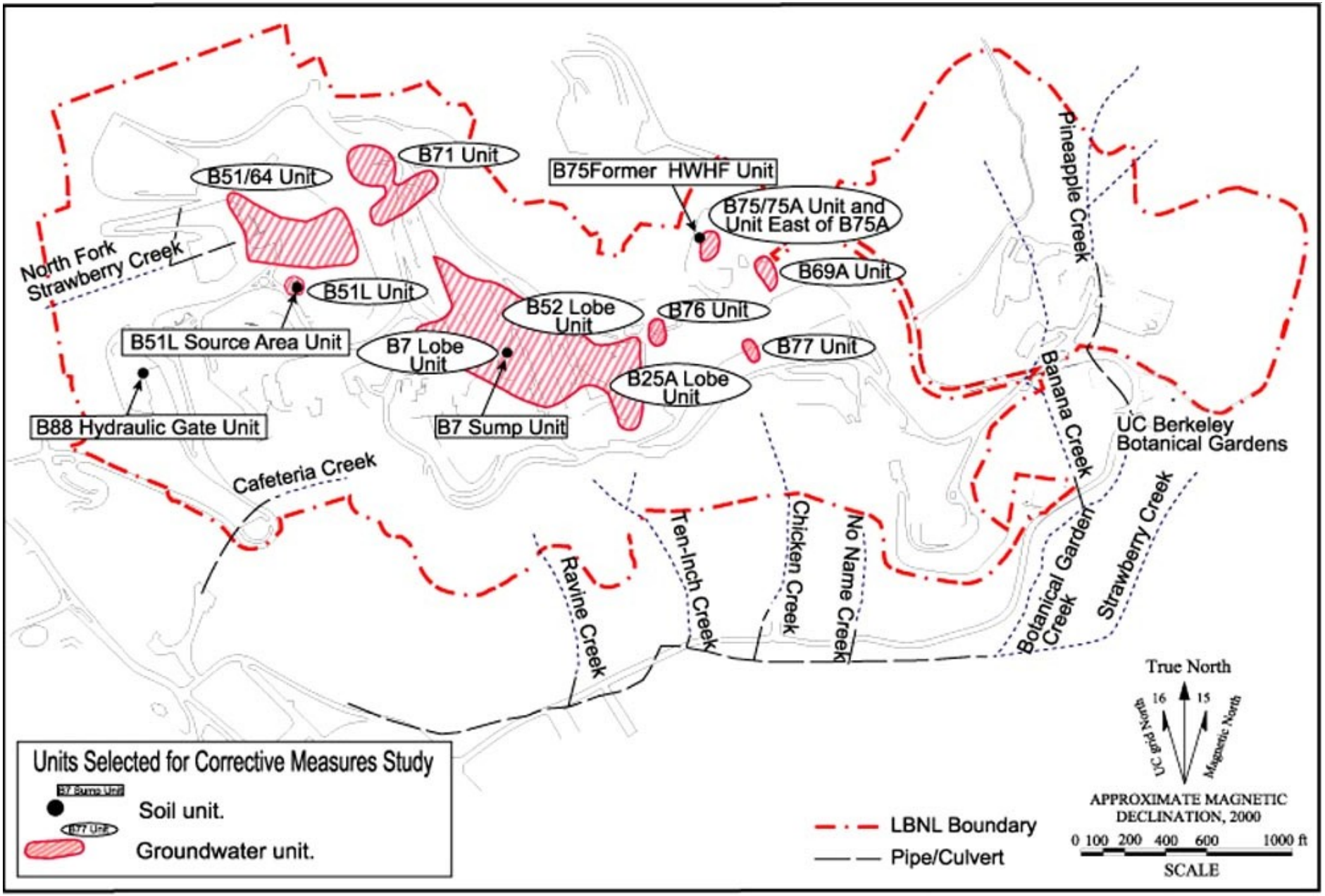
You can send written comments to us between April 25 and June 8, 2005 in the following ways:

√ Mail written comments to:
Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Project Manager
DTSC
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710

√ Send your comment by e-mail to:
wahmad@dtsc.ca.gov or

√ Submit oral or written comments at our hearing on May 26 at 6:30 pm at:
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709

DTSC will make the final decision on the remedy selection only after public comments have been received and considered. DTSC will also write a response to each comment it has received. A copy of each comment and each response will be mailed to each person who submitted comments, will be kept in the libraries, and a copy will be posted on our website.



Units Recommended for Inclusion in Corrective Measures Study, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

Proposed Remedies for Cleanup	
Units	**Proposed Remedy**
Soil Units	
Building 51L Source Area Unit	1
Building 7 Sump Unit	1
Building 88 Hydraulic Gate Unit	2
Building 75 Unit – the former Hazardous Waste Handling and Storage Facility	2
Groundwater Units	
Building 51/64 groundwater solvent plume	4,6,8
Building 51L solvent plume	1,8,9
Building 71 groundwater solvent plume	1,3,4,5,6
Building 7 lobe of the Old Town solvent plume	1,4,7,8
Building 52 lobe of the Old Town solvent plume	4,6
Building 25A lobe of the Old Town solvent plume	4,8
Building 69A area of groundwater contamination	8
Solvents in groundwater south of Building 76	10
Building 77 area of groundwater contamination	10
Building 75/75A area of groundwater contamination	10
Unit of Wells east of Building 75A	10

LEGEND

Please note that B refers to a building in each unit reference on the map.

1. Excavating contaminated soil and shipping it to an authorized landfill.
2. Finished because an earlier interim action cleaned up the area to an unrestricted land use level.
3. Adding hydrogen peroxide to degrade/destroy the contaminants in the soil.
4. Flushing out contamination from the soil using the site's cleaned up groundwater.
5. Providing a food-grade additive to the groundwater such as polylactate to speed up the natural breakdown of solvents.
6. Collecting contaminated water from drain lines and cleaning the water with activated carbon
7. Using activated carbon to clean groundwater.
8. Monitoring the breakdown of contaminants occurring by natural processes.
9. Rerouting a storm drain line.
10. Monitoring contaminant concentrations in the groundwater.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888-877-5378. Please ask them to contact Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding the Berkeley Lab.

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to Nathan Schumacher, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento CA 95826.

Please print name and address clearly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Comment: _____

_____

_____

❑ Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.

You Can Contact Us If You Have Further Questions

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the following DTSC staff:

Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley CA 94710
(510) 540-3932 or Wahmad@dtsc.ca.gov

Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Toll-free (866) 495-5651 or Nschumac@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries, please contact:

Angela Blanchette, Public Information Officer
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3732 or Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov